

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Bell et al
Serial No.:	
Filed:	Herewith
Title:	BONE PRECURSOR COMPOSITIONS
Group Art Unit:	1653
Examiner:	Hope Robinson
Docket No.:	TSS-017CN

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the claims as follows:

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 11-14 and 17.

Please amend Claims 27-28 and 30 as follows:

27. (Amended) The composite of claim 23 wherein the biopolymer structure [are] is at least one fiber [or fibers].

28. (Amended) The composite of claim 23 wherein the biopolymer structure is a biopolymer matt.

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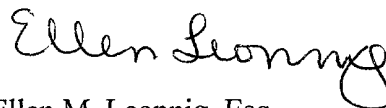
30. (Amended) The composite of claim 23 wherein the biopolymer structure is a composite of a biopolymer structure and [another] at least a second structure capable of forming a composite.

REMARKS

Preliminary to examination of this application, please cancel claims 11-14 and 17 and amend claims 27-28 and 30 as set forth above. Examiner rejects original claim 28 as amended to correct a misspelling of "matt". Applicant asserts that the specification describes a singular "matt" (p. 19, l. 5, 8, 9 and 25), and is specifically defined in line 13 (page 19): "'matt' refers to a biopolymer scaffold comprising a densely packed random array of biopolymer fibrils or bundles of fibrils or particles."

Applicant believes that the amended claims are fully supported by the application and claims as originally filed. Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing amendments introduce no new matter. Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is thus in order and requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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